

# Safe, fast and cool: A special Christmas present for Spain



Great performance: NERTUS employees at the Cornella depot

A train set under the Christmas tree is the dream of many children – and certainly of many adults too! At an official ceremony, the Spanish government gave a present to the Spanish capital of

Madrid and the Andalusian metropolitan area of Málaga which is at least as magnificent: The new high-speed line between Madrid and Málaga was officially inaugurated on December 23, 2007.

High-ranking representatives of the Spanish government, the Presidents of ADIF and Renfe and the CEOs of all the construction and infrastructure companies involved celebrated the opening

of the new line. Siemens TS was represented by Juan C. Lorenzo, and José-M. Tejera represented NERTUS at the ceremony. The Spanish Prime Minister complimented Siemens on the quality and comfort of the AVE S-103 (Velaro), which is in service on the new line. Politicians in general seem to like the Velaro: They are convinced that it is currently the “coolest” train on Spanish tracks.

## **NERTUS: The number one in the Spanish maintenance business**

The residents of Málaga and Madrid were already provided with the opportunity to test the new line on Christmas Eve, maybe for a Christmas visit to relatives in the other city? Since Christmas, Velaro trains have been running four times a day on the new line; Talgo-Bombardier trains are in service on additional lines. Besides Málaga, Siemens trains also connect other Spanish cities: Passengers can use them to travel to Seville and back twice a day, and 16 trains a day run to Tarragona near Barcelona.

NERTUS Mantenimiento Ferroviario S.A. also received a special Christmas present at the end of December: Since Renfe awarded NERTUS, the TS IS partner company, four contracts for maintenance periods of at least four years, NERTUS has again retained the number one position in the Spanish maintenance business. In future, the maintenance of commuter and regional trains will be performed at the Cornella, San Andrés and Montcada-Mataró depots.



NERTUS employee working on commuter trains at the Cornella depot

The decision in favor of NERTUS clearly shows that Renfe is satisfied with the maintenance provided by IS. The major challenge will now be to further optimize the performance in order to be also able to serve customers to their entire satisfaction in the future. ■

*José-Manuel Tejera,  
Dirección NERTUS*